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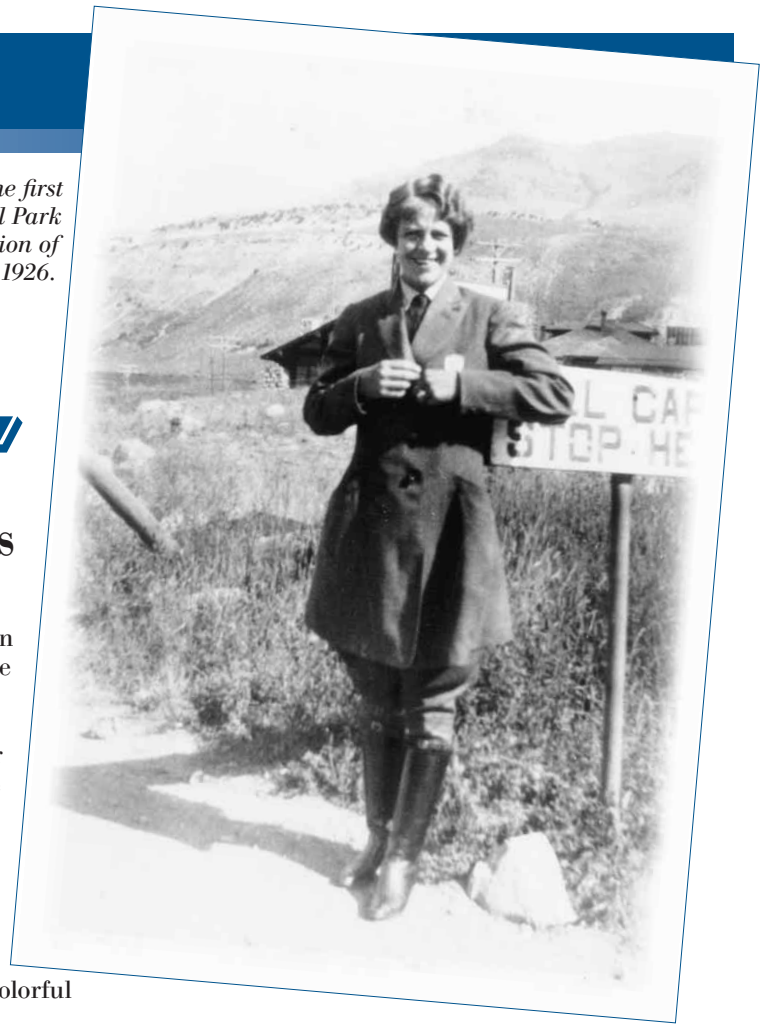


Ranger Frances "Jim" Pound, one of the first women rangers in the National Park Service, at the North Entrance Station of Yellowstone National Park in 1926.

RANGER "JIM"

Stories of Frances "Jim" Pound and Early Park Service Days

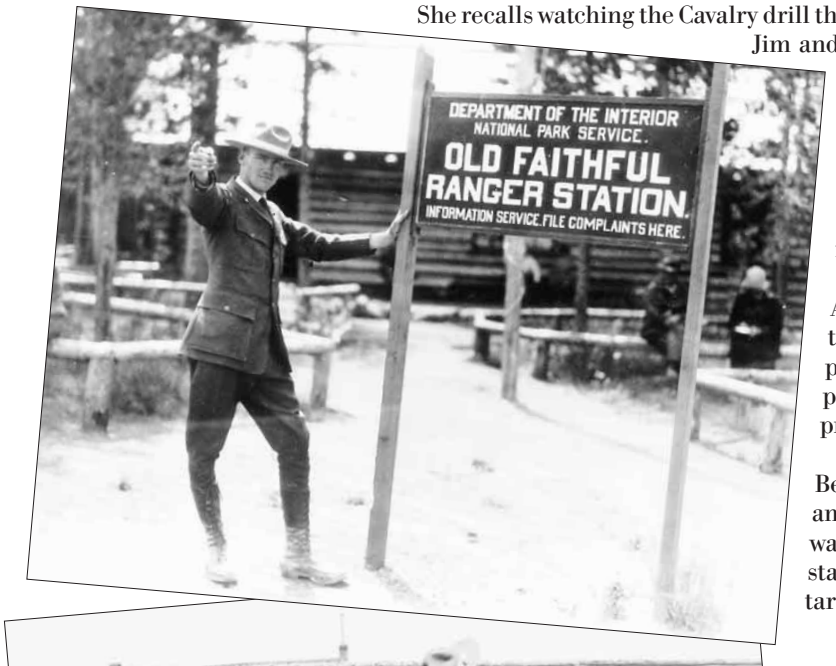
as told to Park Ranger Carol Shively

The transition from army to civilian administration of Yellowstone National Park is an historical episode often retold by ranger-naturalists. But few people are as uniquely qualified to provide personal insight into the story as **Frances "Jim" Pound**, one of the first women rangers in the National Park Service.

Though the park was established in 1872, the first superintendents were not provided money, staffing, or authority to protect it. Poachers and vandals ravaged park resources. Under an agreement between the Secretary of the Interior and the War Department, the United States Army was called to the rescue, serving at Yellowstone for 32 years in one of its most unusual assignments.

Frances Pound, who was nicknamed by her father for an adventurous character in a cartoon strip, moved to Yellowstone in 1915 when she was eight years old. She literally grew up with the world's first national park. Her father, **Thad Pound**, who had served as a U.S. deputy marshall in Helena, Montana, became a scout for the Army at its post in Yellowstone. Jim's mother, Nellie, worked for a season as a matron at the colorful tent camps that lodged the "sagebrushers" (people who camped rather than staying in the luxury hotels).

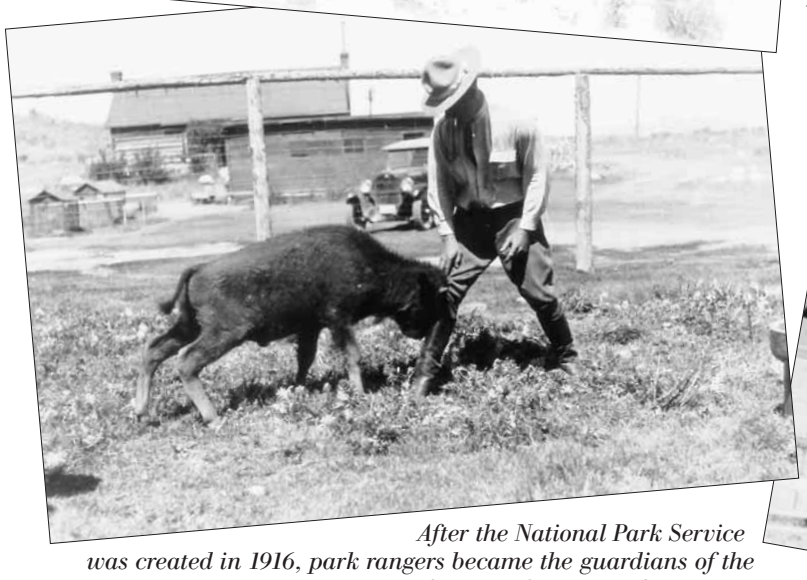
Jim has vivid memories of the park during the Army years. She went to school in a converted barracks with a sergeant's wife as her teacher. She remembers the soldiers stationed at the Mammoth Terraces to protect the fragile formations and to answer questions from the "dudes" (affluent visitors arriving by stagecoach from the East). She recalls watching the Cavalry drill their horses on the parade grounds of Fort Yellowstone, a dramatic display for park visitors. Occasionally, Jim and her sister would slip into the mess hall and join the soldiers for breakfast, enjoying their tales of Army life. Army scout **James McBride**, who later became chief ranger, taught her to ski on the slopes of the dormant Travertine Terraces.

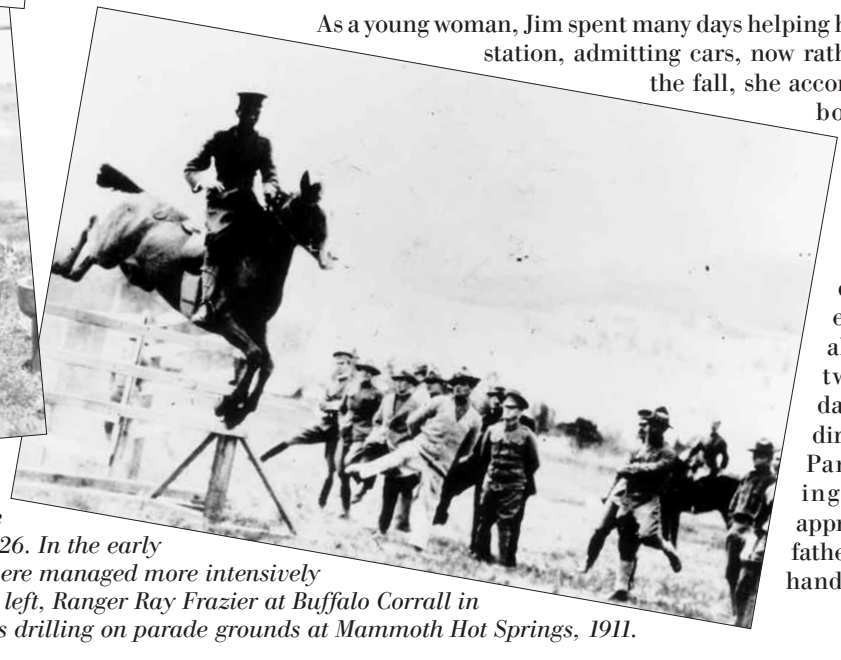


After several decades, the military superintendents began to feel that the Army's role was to protect national security, not natural resources. And by 1914, there was a world war to fight. The need for a civilian agency to manage the national parks led to the establishment of the National Park Service in 1916.

According to Jim, there was "not a dry eye in the house" during the formal ceremony that marked the changing of the guard. The Cavalry marched in precision with all their horses and weapons from park headquarters down the winding road through Gardiner Canyon and, symbolically, out of the park through the historic Roosevelt Arch. Park rangers became the guardians of Yellowstone, protecting it in the proud tradition left to them by the military.

Because of the extensive knowledge of the park that Thad Pound had gained as an Army scout, he was among the original ranger ranks. The family moved into a house next to the Mammoth Terraces. Hot water was piped into the family's quarters directly from the hot springs. Eventually, the former soldiers' station became their home, complete with bullet holes in the ceiling, souvenirs of the 7th Cavalry's target practice shooting flies.





As a young woman, Jim spent many days helping her father at the north entrance station, admitting cars, now rather than stagecoaches. During the fall, she accompanied him by horseback on boundary patrol, learning to share his love of nature around the campfire on the crisp October nights.

On one especially memorable day, the park radio in the entrance station alerted all staff to be on the lookout for two bank robbers, armed, dangerous, and heading in the direction of Yellowstone National Park. Soon, two men answering the robbers' description approached the station. When her father ordered the men to "put their hands up," young Jim took their

After the National Park Service was created in 1916, park rangers became the guardians of the parks. Ranger Ross, above top, at Old Faithful Ranger Station, 1926. In the early days of Yellowstone National Park, bison and other wildlife were managed more intensively than under the natural regulation policy of today. Above left, Ranger Ray Frazier at Buffalo Corrall in Mammoth Hot Springs, 1926. At right, U.S. Cavalry troops drilling on parade grounds at Mammoth Hot Springs, 1911.

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Like Mother, Like Daughter

Two Generations of Park Service Women

"Hey, Ms. Freeman, look at the man on the horse. I really love that hat. That's exactly what I want to be when I grow up," the girl said.

"Hush up, honey," the camp director scolded. "They ain't got no black people in those uniforms, riding those horses, and they sure ain't got no ladies."

That's what **Tina Satterwhite** heard during the summer of 1956, when she was an eight-year-old attending day camp at Fort DuPont Park in Washington, DC. The camp director, **Verna Freeman**, who later was Tina's high school physical education teacher, had offered a harsh reality check to a wide-eyed youngster. But that admonition did not narrow Tina's focus or dampen her ambition, despite the formidable obstacles that lay ahead.

Ms. Tina Short (nee Satterwhite) is the site manager of Anacostia Park in Washington, DC. She not only fulfilled her dream of becoming a park ranger but also inspired her daughter to follow in her footsteps.

One of seven children, Tina was educated in the DC public schools, graduating from Eastern High School in 1966. She began her National Park Service career in 1971 as a receptionist at National Capital Parks-West, when **Luther Burnett** was superintendent. Within sight of her goal, she won a CAPTED scholarship (Career Advancement for Paraprofessionals Through Education and Development) that was offered by the National Park Service and attended American University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1977. Tina was then offered a park ranger position and ten weeks of training at Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.

Convinced the trip out West would be a great experience for her children, she brought daughters Kym, who was 11, and Nicole, who was 7. They, of course, dreaded being separated from family and friends in the middle of a school year. Nicole had already convinced Kym that they should never become park rangers. Tina rewarded them for making the trip with a three-day visit to Disneyland before they returned to Washington, DC.

Kym Elder, who has been interpreting NPS historic sites since she was a teenager, is site manager at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, in Washington, DC.

Tina was rewarded, and pleasantly surprised, with her first permanent assignment—supervisory park ranger at Fort DuPont Park—where her dream of horses, hats, and a Park Service career had begun. Observing the inner city youth who visited the Fort DuPont Activity Center before and after school, searching for things to do, she recognized there was a need to develop educational programs for these youngsters. In the summer of 1979, Fort DuPont Park became the most popular day camp in the Washington area, because of the educational and creative activities that Tina and her staff had planned and carried out.

During these years, daughters Kym and Nicole attended more park activities—meetings, seminars, programs, and receptions—than they cared to count. When she was nine, Kym began serving as a Volunteer in the Parks at the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site and became well-read on the life of Frederick Douglass. When she was old enough to have a summer job, the DC Summer Youth Employment Program assigned her to the Douglass Home because of her knowledge of the man and the home.

After graduating from the Academy of Notre Dame High School in Washington, DC, Kym attended Norfolk State University. By this time, her mom no longer had to advise her about where to work during school breaks. The Douglass Home had become a place Kym loved and enjoyed. She has given tours of the home to hundreds of thousands of people from all over the world, including heads of state, royalty, diplomats, mayors, Members of Congress, Senators, professional athletes, actors, and actresses. Many arrived without expecting any special attention, just wanting to be in the home of this great American.

When Secretary Babbitt visited Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens last September, he met Kym Elder, standing, the site manager, and learned about the dual careers of Kym and her mother, Tina. The mother-daughter ranger team has contributed more than 40 years to the National Park Service, most of this service with National Capital Parks-East. They attend Brown Memorial AME Church, where their pastor, the Reverend Dr. Henry V. White, appointed them co-chairs of the annual Woman's Day event in March of 1999. Tina and Kym can be contacted through National Capital Parks-East Superintendent John Hale at (202) 690-5182. Photos by Bill Clark, NPS

When Kym graduated from Norfolk State University with a biology degree in 1989, she was offered a permanent NPS position by **Dorothy Benton**, who was then the chief of Interpretation, Recreation, and Visitor Services and is now retired. Both Tina and Kym have always admired and greatly respected Mrs. Benton. Later, Kym became manager for the Frederick Douglass National Historic Site. Last October, Tina and Kym were among five African-American women from their division to attend the National Association of Interpreters Conference in Anchorage, Alaska.

"This was one of the high points of our careers," said Tina, who is now a world traveler. "African-American women are now finding the doors to training opportunities opening wider every day, not due to the color of our skin but to the contents of our character, our poise, our charm, our personalities, and by the knowledge that we have gained, simply because we thought it worth the time to get where we wanted to be."

Kym is married to Alan Elder and they have two sons, Alan and Aaron. Nicole, who has two daughters—Imani and Nia—is a reporter for the *Afro-American Newspaper*. Her outlook on the National Park Service has improved over the years, and she thinks about working for the Service someday, perhaps in public affairs.

Rocky Mountain National Park and the Challenges of the Millennium

Douglas L. Caldwell

At its inception in the late 19th Century, the national park idea was an innovative and startling concept. Some observers considered it one of America's finest contributions to world culture. Yet, despite their popularity, the national parks approach the third millennium with trepidation. Their future is clouded by increasing visitation, the development of neighboring private lands, shifting political philosophies and policies, and continuing budgetary constraints.

Rocky Mountain National Park, one of the oldest and most popular national parks in the nation, reflects the challenges facing the National Park Service on the eve of the 21st Century. As a microcosm of the system, it exemplifies the tension between the original mandate and today's reality and demonstrates how the national parks are reaching out to their neighbors, the private sector, and the nation to creatively meet these challenges.

In 1872, when Congress established Yellowstone National Park, the concept seemed a lot simpler. America was primarily a rural society with vast expanses of open land, particularly west of the Mississippi River, that had entered the Union under federal control with the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, the Oregon Acquisition of 1846, and the Mexican Cession of 1848.

In some ways, it was a relatively easy matter to set aside some of these vast government holdings in the West as national parks, provided the land wasn't good for anything else. Once satisfied that Yellowstone wasn't fit for homesteading or timber and mining operations, Congress set aside the area as "a public park or pleasuring ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people."

At the May 1915 dedication of the Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado, from left, Stephen T. Mather, Robert Sterling Yard, Acting Superintendent Trowbridge, first NPS photographer Cowling, and Horace M. Albright. The men at the far left against the tree are unidentified.

The law establishing the park also provided for the preservation of all timber, mineral deposits, natural curiosities, and wonders within the park "in their natural condition." This historic legislation set in motion the primary NPS missions of recreational use and resource preservation—a dual mandate requiring a balance of interests. That mandate is often criticized both by those who support the national park concept as well as those who view public land as an impediment to a community's full economic development.

In establishing Rocky Mountain National Park in 1915 and the National Park Service a year later, Congress elaborated on this mandate. The NPS was mandated to "promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations . . . and . . . to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." In the years that followed, a large body of laws and regulations evolved to provide the Service the necessary authorities to fulfill its mission.

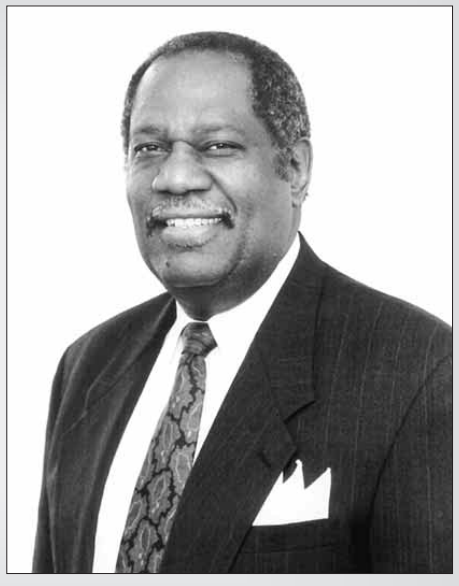
Without Struggle, There is No Progress

Robert G. Stanton, Director, National Park Service

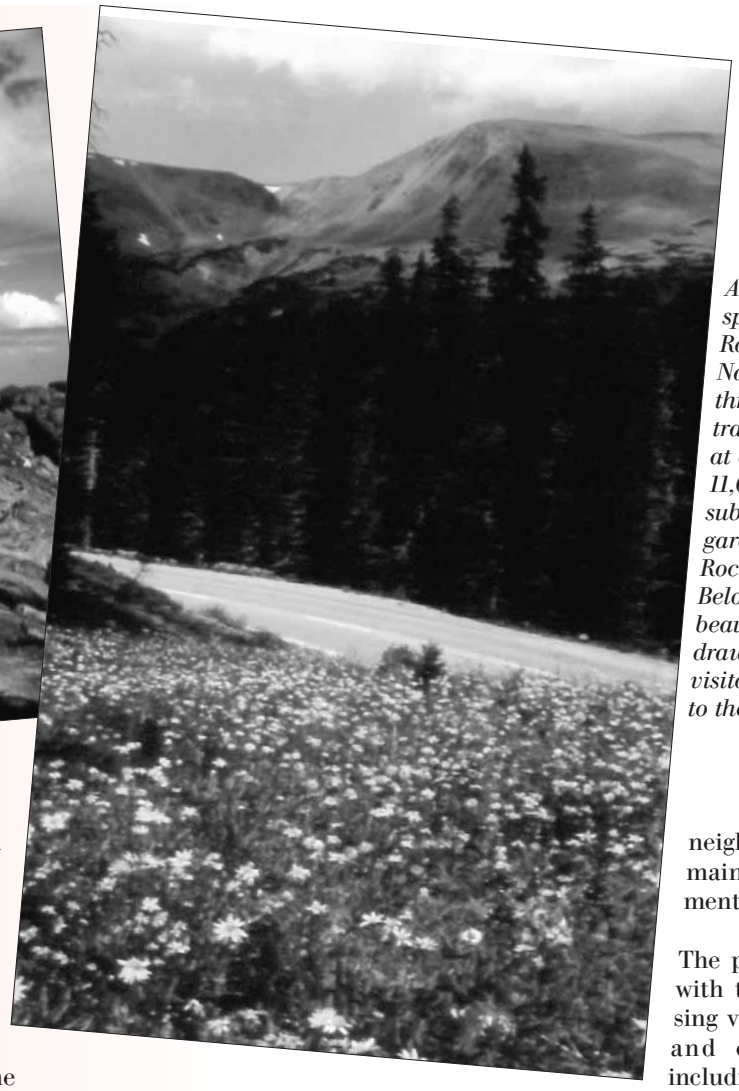
Since **President Woodrow Wilson** established the National Park Servic 83 years ago, we have made tremendous strides in protecting our nation's cultural and natural heritage. Today, we know parks are learning places that help us relate to other living things—to animals and birds and plants—and especially to one another. Parks show us that while recognizing and respecting our differences, we as a nation must come together as one.

Nonetheless, we face incredible challenges in our work. One of these challenges is our responsibility to reflect the fabric of this nation—not only the events that define us but also the people of our country today. We are also involving youth in NPS programs, for our children are our most precious resource. We are embarking upon an ambitious plan to incorporate sound science in deciding how natural and cultural resources are managed so that they will be preserved intact for future generations.

The great orator, writer, and abolitionist, Frederick Douglass, once said, "If there is no struggle, there is no progress." On the 150th Anniversary of the Department of the Interior, we must recommit ourselves as stewards in the struggle to preserve our nation's heritage, so that our parks continue to be reservoirs of intellectual, artistic, and spiritual inspiration.



Robert G. Stanton
Director, National Park Service



At far left, the spectacular Trail Ridge Road of Rocky Mountain National Park cuts through rock and traverses alpine tundra at elevations above 11,000 feet. At near left, subalpine wildflower gardens abound in Rocky Mountain NP. Below, the pristine beauty of alpine lakes draws millions of visitors annually to the park.

From the late 19th Century through World War II, balancing visitation and preservation was less complicated for park managers than it is today. Although the boundaries of Rocky Mountain National Park and many of her sister parks were drawn for political reasons rather than to encompass complete ecosystems, rangers had the luxury of concentrating on what took place inside the parks. West of the Mississippi, the nation was still a land of open spaces, and little that could directly affect the remote units was taking place immediately outside their boundaries.

That has dramatically changed. From Colorado's Front Range to the Greater Yellowstone area, and from communities around Glacier National Park to Las Vegas, Phoenix, Albuquerque, and Salt Lake City, open lands are filling up with tract housing, luxury vacation homes, golf courses, resorts, and business enterprises. Park employees no longer have the luxury of focusing solely on matters inside park boundaries. They now must be concerned with what is taking place on neighboring lands, because what occurs outside the parks directly affects what happens to the resources inside.

At Rocky Mountain National Park, efforts have been under way for several years to develop closer ties with individual landowners, homeowner associations, developers, and businesses in the gateway communities of Estes Park and Grand Lake so that the concerns of people on both sides of the boundary are known, understood, and reflected in area planning. Through the good offices of a land use specialist on its staff and working with teams of neighboring private landowners, the park seeks to influence development on private lands so that the area maintains its natural setting and attributes. The effort has produced practical guides for developing properties.

Cooperating with realtors in the Estes Valley, for example, the park developed a brochure for new residents to heighten their awareness of the unique aspects of living next door to a national park. That uniqueness requires maintaining seasonal migration corridors for wildlife, which in turn means using colors and housing materials that blend with the natural surroundings. These efforts often require a longer and more complex process to achieve consensus between the park and its neighbors. But cooperation in the early stages of planning is a far more efficient and economical approach than airing differences in a court of law.

The park's concerns over external impacts don't end with land development. The deterioration of air quality because of urbanization, industry, and mining—from as far away as southern California and northern Mexico—is of increasing concern. Water quality also is affected when airborne nitrates and other chemicals are deposited in the park's high country winter snowpack. When the snowpack melts, it becomes the source of drinking and irrigation water for Colorado and many neighboring states.

To meet its mandates to protect natural resources, the park and other units of the National Park System must remain diligent in monitoring regional environmental impacts on land, air, and water. Reducing and eliminating these impacts not only helps maintain healthy park ecosystems but also helps neighboring jurisdictions to maintain healthy environments for their citizens.

The park also is concerned with the impacts of increasing visitation on its natural and cultural resources, including archaeological and historical properties. Since the early 1970s, a permit system to regulate overnight backcountry camping has been in place to lessen human impacts on vegetation and water resources. A shuttle bus system, also in place since the 1970s, allows more visitors to experience the breathtaking beauty of Bear Lake without the park having to pave over natural resources near the lake to accommodate visitors' automobiles. Surveys and studies are under way to help devise strategies for protecting and preserving the park's remnants of human activity that date back 12,000 years.

But continuing increases in the number of visitors to the park and growing year-round recreational use of the resources, due in part to the mushrooming population of

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A Constellation of Constituencies

Mount Rainier National Park & the Shaping of NPS Values

Robert N. McIntyre, Jr.

When Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872, the idea of preserving an exceptionally large area under the administration of the Department of the Interior was a radically different custodial concept. Since the Department had been established in 1849, it had been home to the General Land Office that provided a major source of federal revenue by auctioning off acres of the "public domain" to the highest bidder. Ever since the Land Ordinance of 1785, the General Land Office had reserved the right to survey, sell, and distribute government lands to provide income for the Federal Government.

National parks, however, were not to be divided into convenient parcels and sold to private interests. With little legal or administrative precedent, managing the parks according to their dual mission of recreational use and resource preservation required the Department to develop new administrative values and methods. As **Theodore Catton** has written, the Department had "no preeminent value at the core of the idea. The national park idea is more aptly viewed as a shifting constellation of values." (*Pacific Northwest Quarterly*, Spring 1997.)

That constellation evolved in response to an ever-widening base of local and national constituencies. The establishment of Mount Rainier National Park in 1899 exemplifies the dynamic interaction among citizen, scientific, business, and recreational groups and the Congress and Executive Branch in defining the values and methods that shape park management.

Forest preserve advocates laid the groundwork for the Mount Rainier park initiative. **Cyrus Mosier**, a special agent for the Interior Department who investigated timber conditions around Mount Rainier in 1891, criticized vandalism of trees at Paradise and the practice of starting fires to promote the growth of grass and huckleberries. His work contributed to the establishment of forest reservations. The Forest Reserve Act was enacted that same year and used the term "reservation" to describe federal authority and responsibilities regarding protection of publicly owned forest lands.

Reserving public lands for specific uses was a significant step toward defining the characteristics of preservation and use, in preparation for working with concepts still being debated in the government and public arenas. Mt. Rainier and its surrounding lands were defined as the "Pacific Forest Reserve" by the Secretary of the Interior on Jan. 26,1893. President Benjamin Harrison created the reserve by proclamation on Feb. 20,1893, just before leaving office. Even a century ago, however, well-populated areas lay close to the mountain, making some preservationists skeptical that the reserve afforded adequate protection to the land.

The mountain also had a local scenic lobby. Rainier's bulk and beauty seemed ideal to area residents who valued the view on clear days. They felt that the magnificent mountain deserved to be honored and their wishes were put in writing and distributed by all of the local newspapers. The *Tacoma Ledger* started voicing demands for a park in 1892. The idea snowballed, particularly after the Great Northern Railroad completed its Stevens Pass route to Seattle in 1893. In Seattle, the Parks Commission, Chamber of Commerce, and major newspapers gave their support that year.

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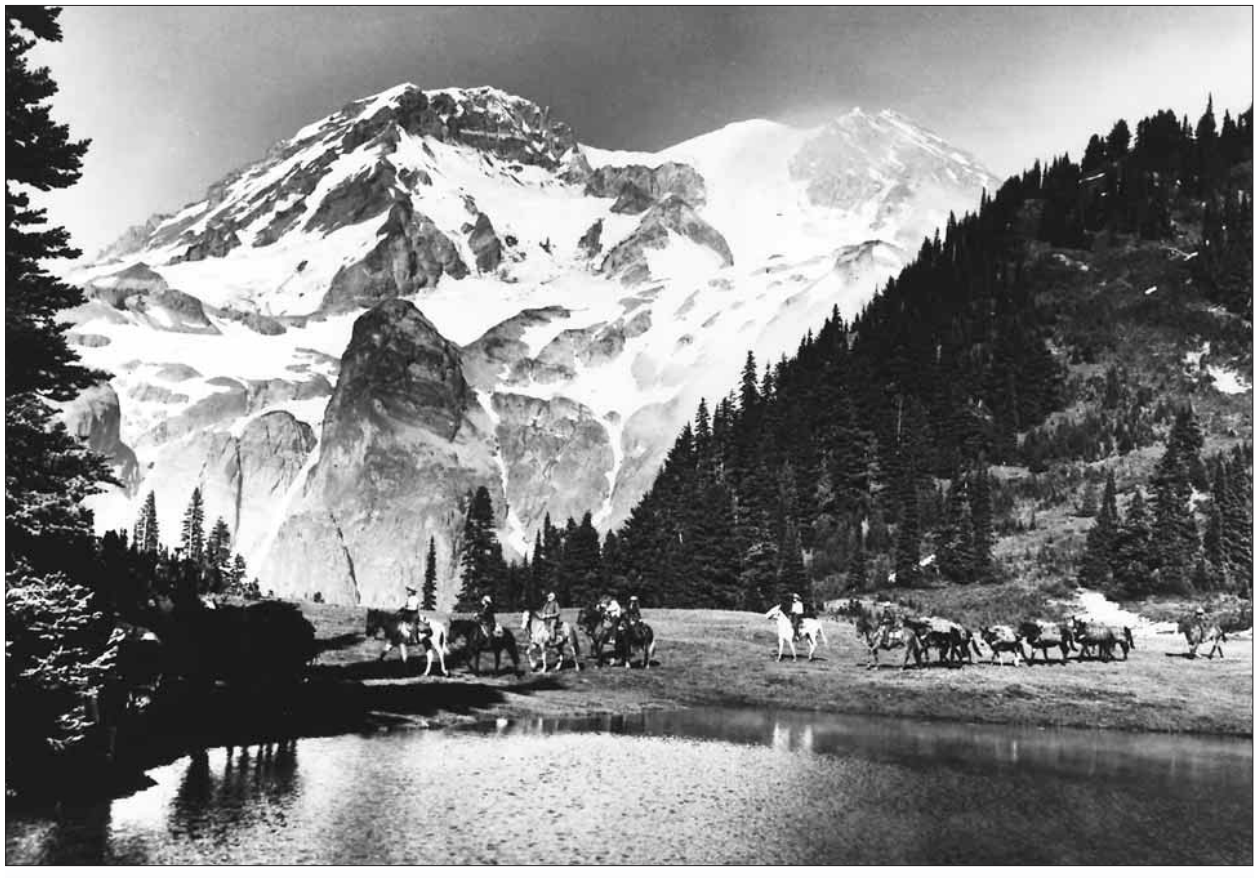
> *The national park idea is more aptly viewed as a shifting constellation of values."*



A CENTENNIAL TO CELEBRATE

On March 2, 1899, Mount Rainier National Park became a part of the growing family of truly national parks. It was a new concept that scenic areas be set aside on a national level. The ideals that had generated community parks, such as Central Park in New York City, were projected to an increased scale of space. Each of the new parks encompassed more area than the largest of the world's private preserves. Two factors made the new park system special: each selected area was known to be unique in natural beauty and each was set aside for the appreciation and use of the public as a whole. Each park is literally owned by us and our future generations.

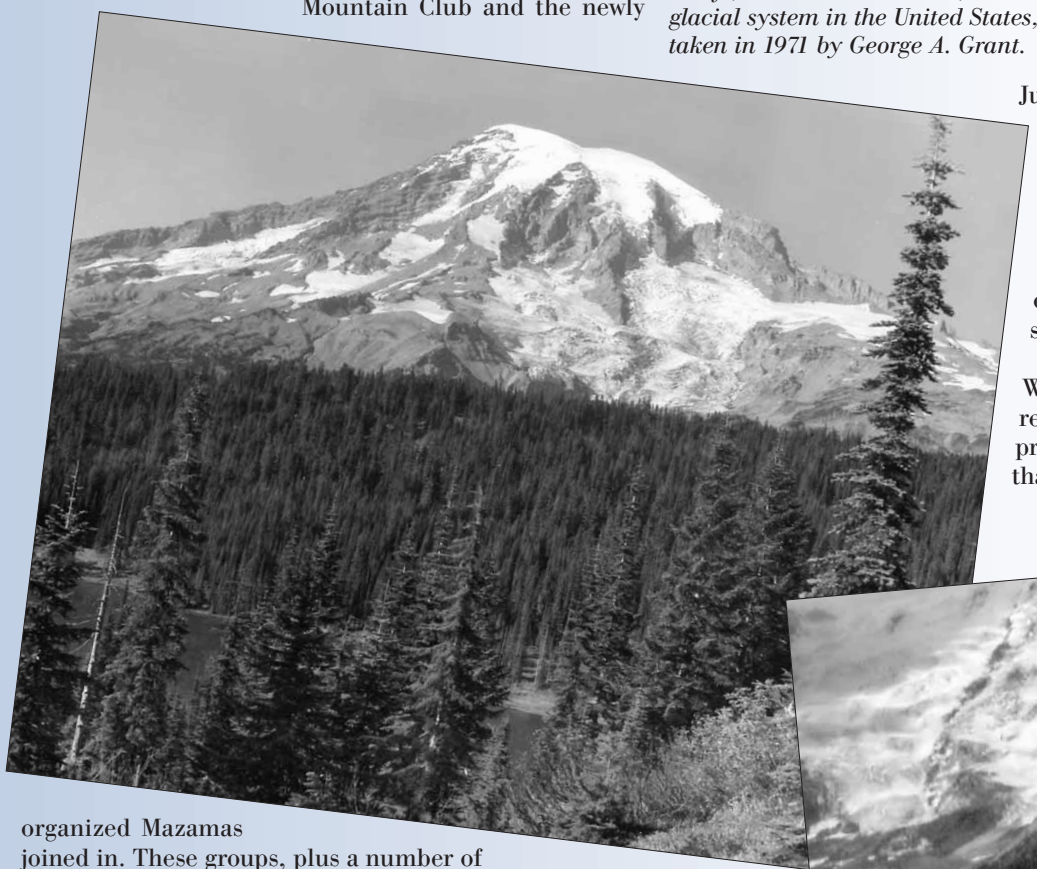
The idea of preserving the Mount Rainier area spread nationally. In addition to publicity from the railroads, vocal support came from a new source of public strength, the mountaineering organizations. The Sierra Club was organized in 1892. One of its founders was **John Muir**, who today is considered one of the most effective environmentalists in our history. He had climbed Mount Rainier in 1888 and gave his full support to its preservation in a national park.

Nationally known geologists **Bailey Willis** and **Samuel Emmons** knew the ridges and glaciers of Mount Rainier from first-hand climbing experience and U.S. Geological Survey work done there. They proposed the establishment of a national park during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America in 1893. A committee was immediately formed to provide support. The American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Geographic Society joined the process that same year.

A great public clamor for a new park was heard by Congress. Washington **Senator Watson Squire** introduced a bill in December 1893 to set apart a portion of the Pacific Forest Reserve to form "Washington National Park." But the Department of the Interior, particularly the commissioner of Public Lands, opposed the bill because it severely reduced the land area of the existing reserve. They felt that Mount Rainier and its surrounding area had been given proper recognition and protection when the Pacific Forest Reserve was set up in 1893.

Public support for the park continued to grow, however, with mountain climbing groups and the scientific community leading the way. In 1894 the Appalachian Mountain Club and the newly organized Mazamas joined in. These groups, plus a number of educational societies, prevailed on the talents of Bailey Willis and the power of the Geological Society to combine park proposals of the many support committees and produce a "Memorial from the Geological Society of America Favoring the Establishment of a National Park in the State of Washington."

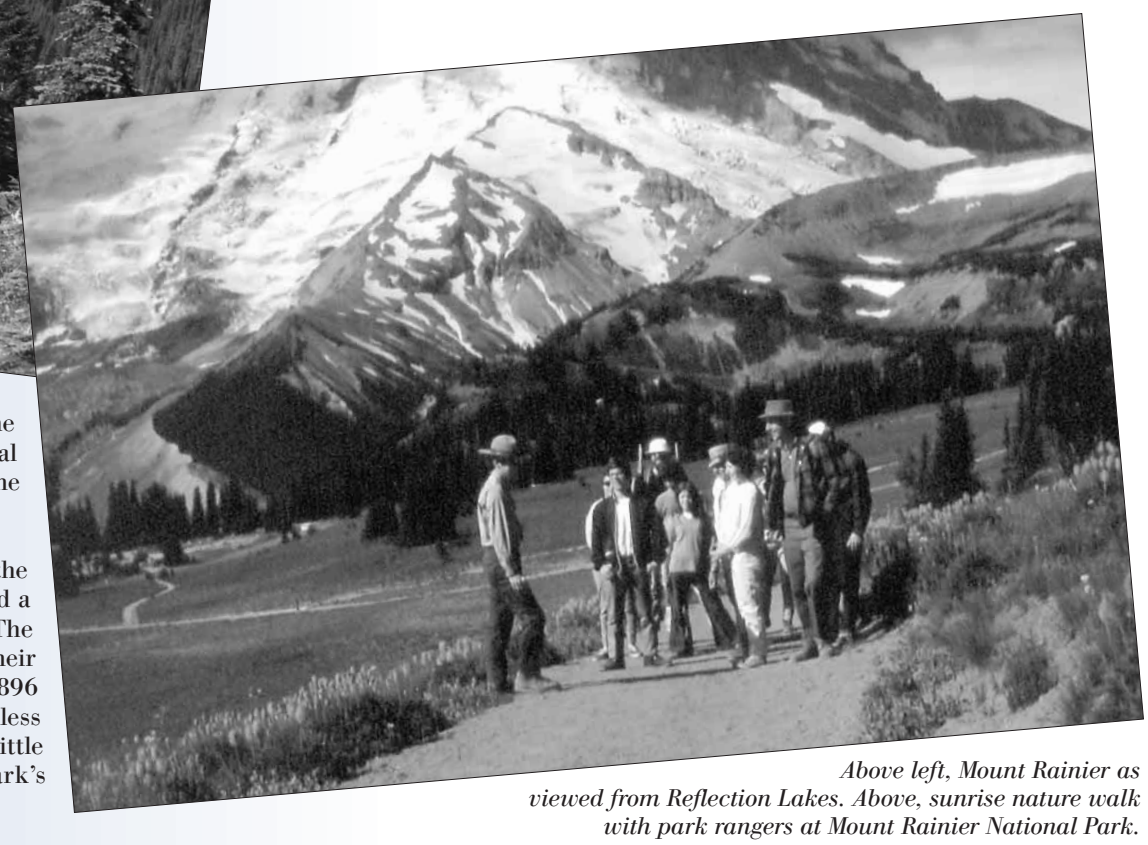
At left, the Emmons Glacier, Mount Rainier National Park, Washington. Mount Rainier has the greatest single-peak glacial system in the United States, radiating from the summit and slopes of an ancient volcano. This NPS photo was taken in 1971 by George A. Grant.



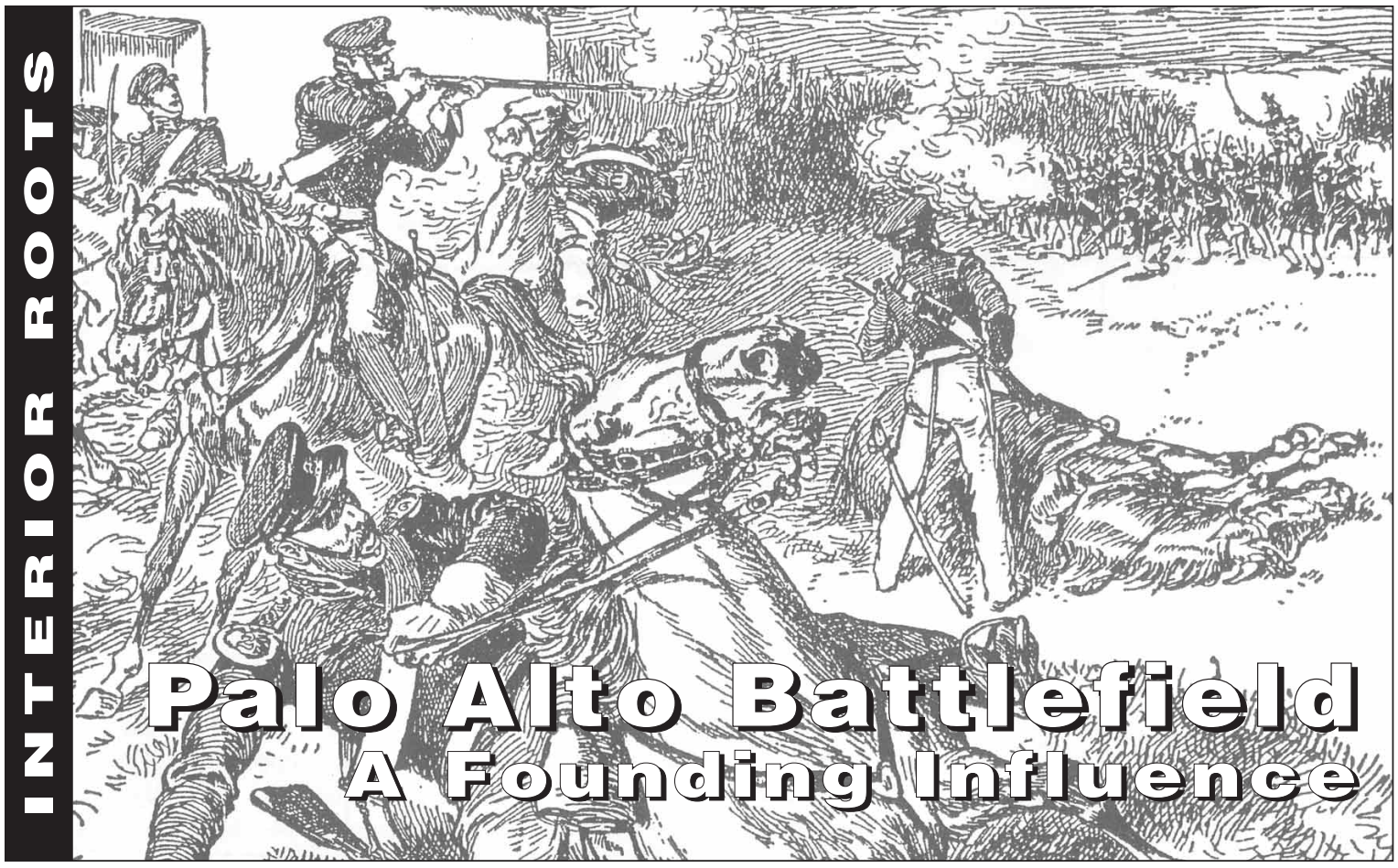
Eleven bills proposing the park were submitted to the Senate and the House of Representatives before stumbling blocks were removed and a reconciled measure was signed by the President on March 2, 1899. The General Land Office and the Department of the Interior withdrew their objection. Interior had been alerted by a Forest Commission study of 1896 that the Mount Rainier area in fact needed protection from "reckless exploitation of forest and watershed area" and was satisfied that little commercially usable minerals and timber existed within the park's boundaries.

Just as the Department evolved over its 150 years, so too has Mount Rainier National Park in seeking an optimal combination of use and preservation. But in the tug-of-war between the public's right to use the park and the need to protect and preserve its resources, the principal players have changed very little. Commercial interest is ever present. Local and national support groups include the preservation and scientific communities, National Geographic Society, mountaineering groups, and communications industry. The U.S. Congress continues to provide important legal and financial support. And this interaction still generates positive action.

With an ever-growing population of individuals and groups that value the park's resources and a wide range of interests shaping its management policies and programs, Mount Rainier National Park enters its second hundred years confident that preservation will remain the lodestar of its constellation of values.



Above left, Mount Rainier as viewed from Reflection Lakes. Above, sunrise nature walk with park rangers at Mount Rainier National Park.



Palo Alto Battlefield
A Founding Influence

Douglas Murphy, Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site

It is commonly accepted that the National Park System was created on March 1, 1872, with the establishment of Yellowstone National Park. Yet the origins of the park system can be traced to a much earlier date and much different surroundings.

Although Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site is one of the newest and least known of the 378 NPS units, the expanse of Texas salt prairie that it protects and the events of 1846 that it interprets initiated the series of events that produced the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service, hundreds of parks across the nation, and the Palo Alto unit itself.

On May 8, 1846, ten miles north of the Rio Grande, armies of the United States and Mexico faced off on the Palo Alto prairie in the first major battle of a prolonged war. For six hours, United States artillery pounded the opposing lines, turned back charges, and produced heavy casualties in the Mexican ranks. The fight ended as a strategic draw, but set the stage for a decisive American victory at *Resaca de la Palma* the following day. This pair of battles also established a tone for the 16 months of war to come. Forced to withdraw from the Rio Grande, Mexican troops found themselves on the defensive from May 1846 until U.S. soldiers occupied their capital on September 14, 1847.

From the start, this was a fight for territory. Officially, war erupted over a disputed boundary for the newly annexed State of Texas. U.S. **President James K. Polk** asserted that the border lay on the Rio Grande and included lands stretching as far west as the Mexican city of Santa Fe. Mexican leaders dismissed these claims, insisting that Texas was but one third the size of the vast expanse claimed by the United States. Both sides marched armies to the disputed Rio Grande border and in the spring of 1846, these forces went to war.

But the conflict was also about land far beyond either border of Texas. As early as 1845, Polk had stymied negotiations by issuing additional demands that Mexico sell the territories of New Mexico and Upper California. After fighting erupted on the Rio Grande, Polk pointed to the clashes as a Mexican invasion of U.S. territory and as justification for sending an army into New Mexico and naval troops to seize California ports. At war's end, he was rewarded for his determination.

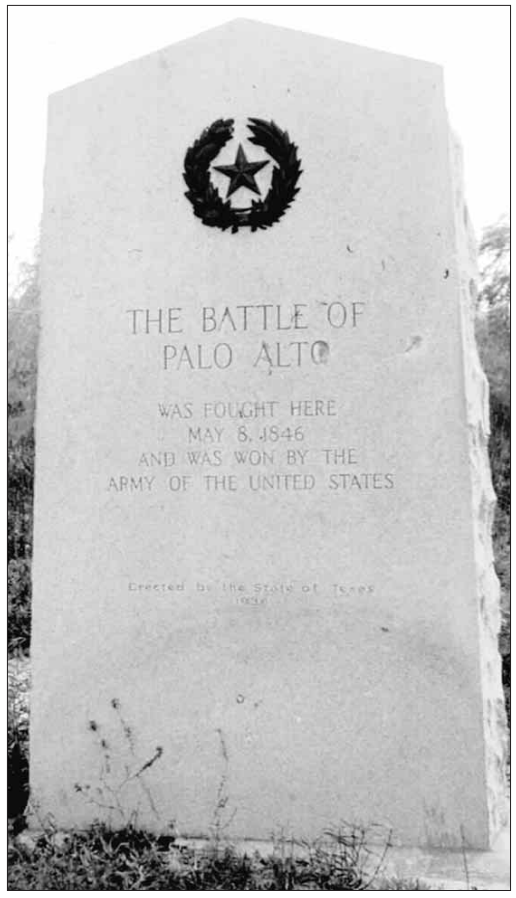
The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo fixed the boundary of Texas on the Rio Grande and forced Mexico to surrender land that would become the states of New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California, Utah, and portions of Colorado and Wyoming. From another perspective, at the close of the conflict that began at Palo Alto battlefield, the United States gained territory that would eventually harbor more than 72 units of the National Park Service.

The battle of Palo Alto and the U.S.-Mexican War became much more closely linked to the establishment of these sites through the creation of the Home Department in 1849. In the years prior to the conflict with Mexico, U.S. political leaders had continually debated the merits of creating a branch of government to manage the public lands of the nation. James Polk had been one of the strongest opponents of such a department, insisting that management and development of lands was a matter for individual states or at least beyond the authority of the Federal Government.

By doubling the size of the nation, the bounty of land won from Mexico ended this debate. With the addition of more than a million square miles of territory and tens of thousands of indigenous residents, it became clear that Washington would have to take measures to manage these areas. In 1849, President Zachary Taylor, who had commanded the U.S. troops at Palo Alto, appointed **Thomas Ewing** the first Secretary of the Home Department for this purpose. In time, this agency would expand into the multifaceted department with diverse responsibilities.

The National Park Service emerged from this Department in response to a growing desire to protect some of the natural beauty of the newly acquired American West. In the mid-19th Century, **Henry David Thoreau**, who had fiercely resisted war with Mexico from his natural enclave at Walden Pond, spoke eloquently about the importance of America's wild and remote places. By the late 1860s, the romantic view of nature presented by Thoreau and his peers had inspired a new generation of conservationists, who began the push for preservation and protection that would result in the establishment of Yellowstone National Park.

In the years that followed, much of this preservation enthusiasm concentrated on natural and archaeological sites within the Mexican cession and led to the establishment of such noted parks as Yosemite, Sequoia, Grand Canyon, and Mesa Verde. In 1916, with 35 park and monument sites already under the administrative control of the Interior Department, the National Park Service was established to manage this growing system. In the decades to follow, this bureau expanded into the network of hundreds of national parks, monuments, battlefields, and historic sites that exists today.



Marker commemorating the Battle of Palo Alto, which was won by the U.S. Army.

Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site was a latecomer to this booming system, but the 1846 clash on the south Texas prairie played a part in the push to include battlefields within the mission of the National Park Service. In the aftermath of the war with Mexico, many Americans expressed a need to commemorate the sacrifices made by soldiers who had taken up arms during the war with Mexico. In 1851 for example, **Theresa Viele**—the wife of an army officer stationed on the Rio Grande—wrote the book *Following the Drum*, expressing her dismay at the lack of attention given to the scene of the battle of Palo Alto. In a moving passage, she wrote:

"It seems almost a disgrace to think of the many forgotten graves of brave and noble men that lie scattered everywhere. The glory conferred by them on their country seems to demand some better return. The blood-stained hills and valleys of our land are the ruby jewels in the crown of her greatness. And if we fail to mark those spots where heroes fall with tablets that tell of their gallant deeds, it is not only wronging them, but wronging generations yet unborn, by allowing them to forget how precious the purchase."

Such feelings were not universal, especially among that large segment of the population that had

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RANGER "JIM"

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sidearms away from them, all the while wondering if they realized how close their raised hands were to the loaded shotgun perched in the elk antler trophy hanging on the wall above their heads.

Impressed by Jim's experience in the park, Superintendent **Horace Albright** (who later became the second NPS Director) asked her if she'd like to be a park ranger. He explained, however, that a woman had never before been hired as a ranger and asked if it was okay to use her nickname "Jim" on the hiring papers rather than her given name, so as not to cause a 'gender stir' in Washington. In this way, Jim became one of the first women rangers in the National Park Service, with no questions asked. Jim's mother and the superintendent's wife, Mrs. Albright, consulted on the design of the first female ranger uniform. When the NPS approved the design, it was sent to Philadelphia for production.

Jim served in Yellowstone from 1925-1929. Her primary duties included registering visitors into the park, sealing guns, and providing information to park visitors. She also arrested bootleggers during the years when alcohol was prohibited in the park. Jim rode in the equestrian procession at the dedication of the Howard Eaton Trail in 1923. Her story captured the fancy of a journalist and was featured in a New York newspaper. The article was called *They Call Her Ranger Jim*.

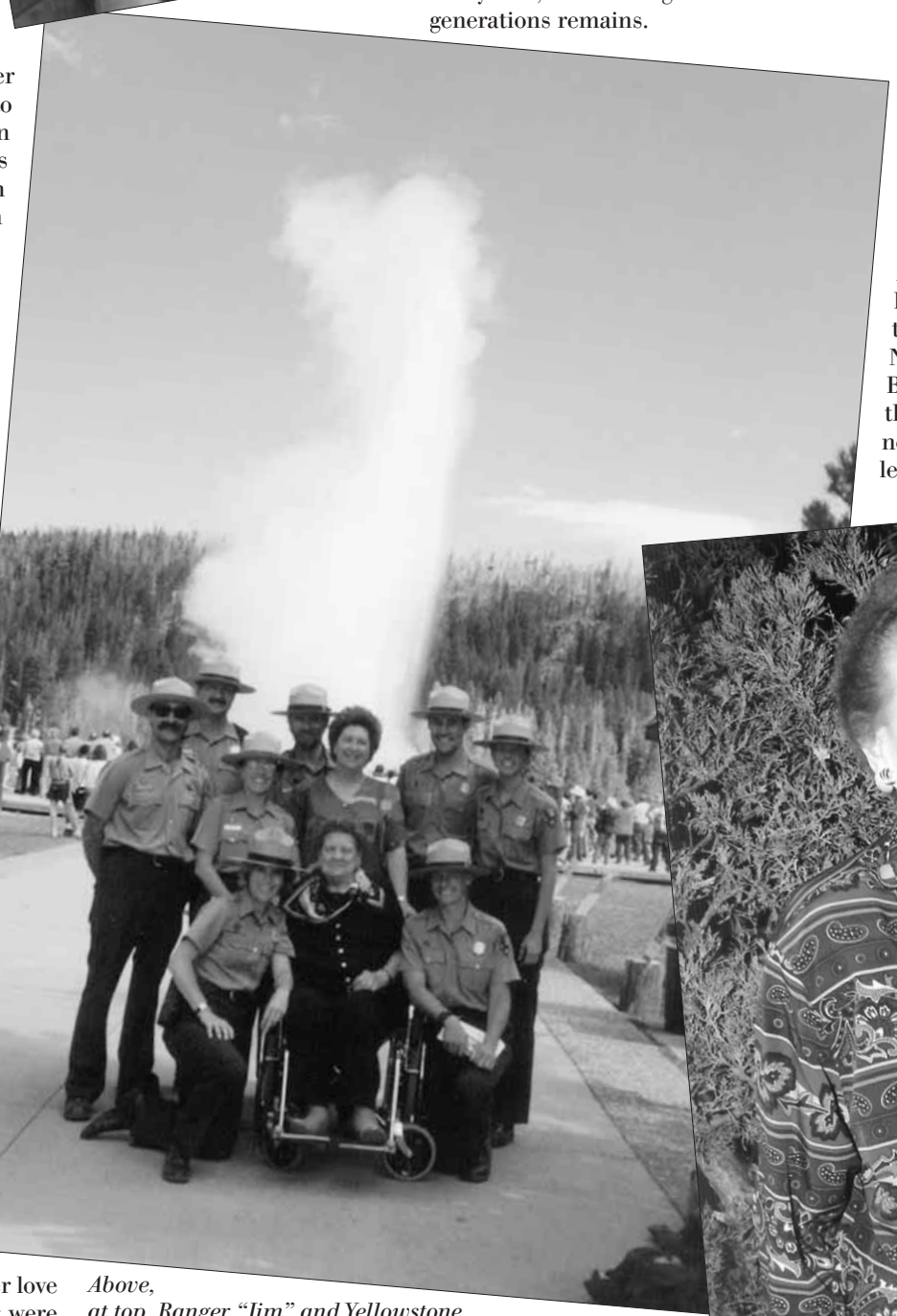
Her years in Yellowstone were crowned by a personal conversation with President Calvin Coolidge on his historic visit to the park in 1928. Known as "Silent Cal" in the popular press, he was anything but that as he spoke to Jim and **Peg Lindsley**, park naturalist, at the Old Faithful Inn, describing with great animation the wonderful fishing he'd found in Yellowstone. On that same tour of the park, the President later threw the ranger staff into a panic by ignoring his agenda and sneaking away with two Secret Servicemen to enjoy the pleasure of fishing on Yellowstone Lake in relative solitude. Jim recalls Mrs. Coolidge as a woman of quiet confidence who was deeply moved by the park's beauty.

When the Great Depression hit, Jim and her sister, Virginia, who had worked for the Transportation Company in Yellowstone, moved to southern California, were they were soon joined by their parents and younger sister, Ruth. During World War II, Jim became active with the American Red Cross, teaching first aid to fellow Automobile Club employees and law enforcement personnel. Near the war's end, she married **Owen Wright**.

When her daughter, Suzanne, started school, Jim became active with the Parent Teachers Association, holding several offices. Her upbringing in Yellowstone, her love of the outdoors, and her experience as a ranger were invaluable throughout more than ten years of leadership in Girl Scouting. Jim and Suzanne currently reside in Alhambra, California. Though her husband's work kept the family in California, Jim made frequent visits back to Montana to visit family and to take sentimental journeys into the park.

Jim and Suzanne were honored guests of the superintendent at a ceremony and celebration marking the 125th Anniversary of the establishment of Yellowstone in the summer of 1997. During this visit, Jim appeared somewhat surprised to see bison roaming wild in the park. In her day, she recalled, bison were carefully managed on the Buffalo Ranch in the Lamar Valley. This was an attempt to increase the remnant wild herd of the West, whose numbers had dropped to 23 by the turn of the century as a result of overhunting.

Jim also told of helping Ranger Naturalist Peg Lindsley feed and care for abandoned and injured animals. Jim's experience as a ranger in the 1920s and her reaction to current management policy reflect how the interpretation of the Park Service mission has evolved over the decades from one of intensive management to one of natural regulation. Regardless of how resource management philosophy has changed through the years, the strong commitment to conserving park resources for future generations remains.



At the 125th Anniversary celebration, Jim, then 90 years old, regaled a gathering of park rangers, cultural resource staff, and other park employees with the memoirs of her experiences in Yellowstone during the early years of the National Park Service. At this occasion, she graciously donated her original uniform to the park curator to be displayed at the Museum of the National Park Ranger at Norris Geyser Basin. It felt as though she were 'passing the mantle,' leaving her colleagues of the next generation with the inspiration and legacy of her abiding love for Yellowstone.

Above, at top, Ranger "Jim" and Yellowstone Superintendent Michael Finley at the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of Yellowstone National Park in August 1997. Above, Ranger Jim, daughter Suzanne, and the ranger naturalist staff in front of Old Faithful Geyser at the 125th Anniversary of Yellowstone. At right, Frances "Jim" Pound at her home in Alhambra, California.

Rocky Mountain NP and the Challenges of the Millennium

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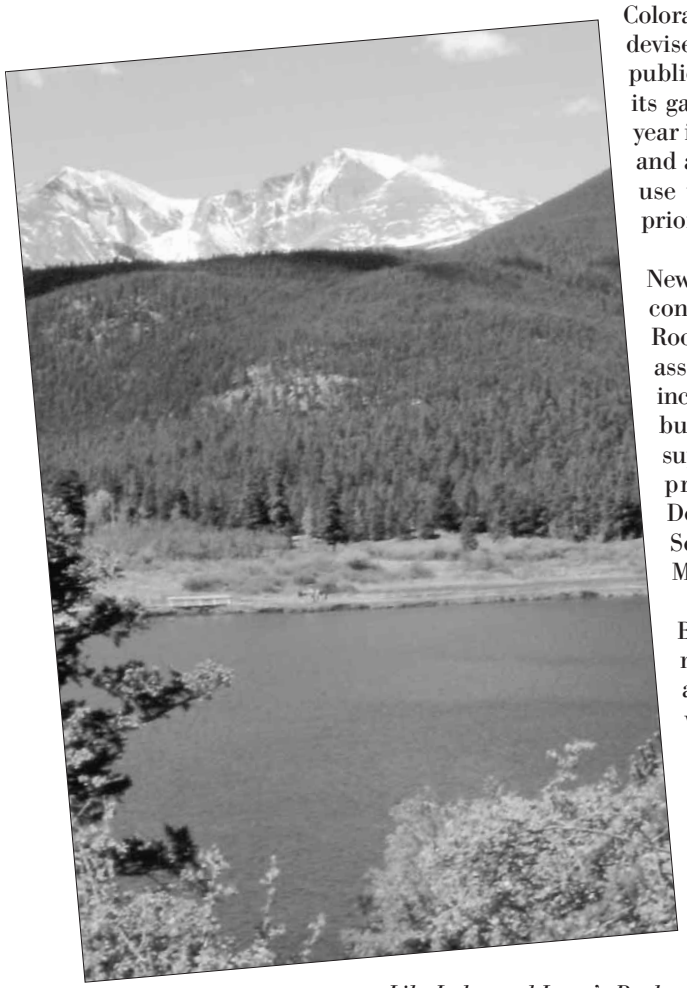


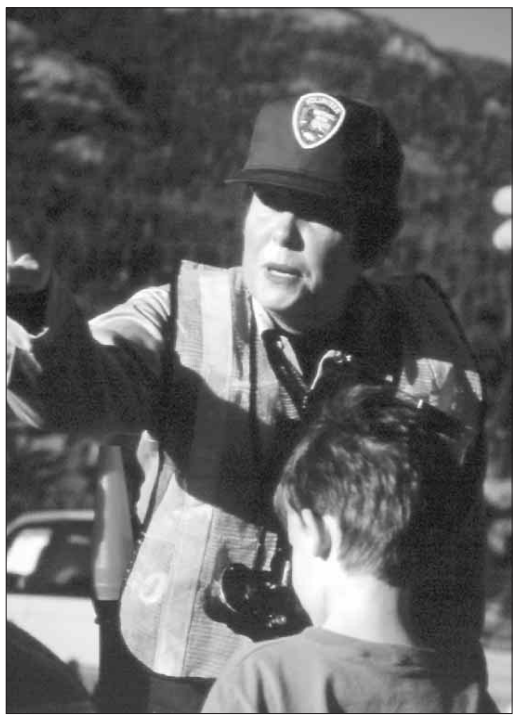
Lily Lake and Long's Peak.

Colorado's Front Range communities, will challenge the park to devise more effective but evenhanded systems for controlling public access. From its first year, when 13,000 people entered its gates, to the 1990s when more than three million visitors a year is the norm, the park's growing popularity is both a blessing and a bane to park managers and employees. Balancing visitor use with resource protection will remain the park's highest priority into the 21st Century.

New ways of funding research and park operations also will continue to receive high priority. The park's friends group, the Rocky Mountain National Park Associates, and its cooperating association, the Rocky Mountain Nature Association, will be increasingly relied on to raise funds from the private sector to build fully accessible trails, produce educational exhibits, and support natural resources research and historic preservation projects. Congress, through the Recreation Fee Demonstration Project, is working with the National Park Service to reduce a massive maintenance backlog. Rocky Mountain National Park has a $74 million backlog.

But most importantly, the park and the National Park Service must increase public awareness that the national parks are a part of America's legacy for all its citizens and that we who wear the gray-and-green are but the caretakers of this nation's most spectacular natural areas and significant historical sites. For the national park idea to survive, we must help all Americans understand the need not only to enjoy the parks but also to hand this irreplaceable legacy unimpaired to their children and to their children's children.

Douglas L. Caldwell was formerly the public information officer for Rocky Mountain National Park. He recently retired after 36 years of service.



Above, Betsy Leverton, an Elk Bugle Corps volunteer, helping visitors and elk share the park.

Rocky Mountain National Park's Elk Bugle Corps program involves some 75 dedicated volunteers who provide space for elk during their fall rut, while helping thousands of visitors to experience wildlife.

Palo Alto Battlefield

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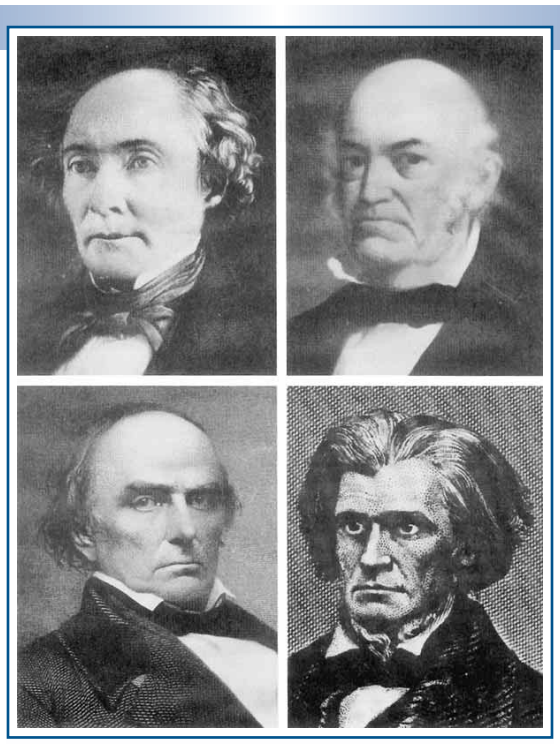
viewed the battle and the war as an unjustified assault on Mexico. Nevertheless, it indicated a sentiment that had existed since the American Revolution—that battlefields were sacred areas deserving of protection as national heritage sites. The bloody battles of the American Civil War only increased this perception and prompted the War Department to preserve the sites of such epic clashes as Chickamauga and Chattanooga, Shiloh, Gettysburg, and Vicksburg. The catalogue of preserved or commemorated sites grew so large that, in 1933 the military turned them over to the young National Park Service. Since that time, dozens of other sites have been added to that list, including the Palo Alto Battlefield in 1992.

The late inclusion of the Palo Alto Battlefield into this commemorative process again belies the important role that the battle and the U.S.-Mexican War played as a catalyst for many of the well-memorialized Civil War battles. Even as U.S. and Mexican cannon thundered on the plain of Palo Alto, political disputes about the justice of this conflict and its potential effects on the institution of slavery were tearing the country apart. Victory in the war merely intensified the debate.

Throughout the 1850s, a series of discussions and compromises aimed at reducing tensions over the extension of slavery into former Mexican territories instead produced an unbridgable gap between North and South. By the 1860s, the Union was so divided that it could only be reconstructed by force of arms. **Ulysses S. Grant** later viewed this conflict as a sort of divine retribution for the events that began at Palo Alto, writing that, "The Southern rebellion was largely the outgrowth of the Mexican war. Nations, like individuals, are punished for their transgressions. We got our punishment in the most sanguinary and expensive war of modern times." By extension it may be suggested that the battle of Palo Alto and the U.S.-Mexican War were in some way responsible for the rush to commemorate the Civil War over the last 100 years.



Clockwise from top left, Secretary of the Treasury Robert J. Walker urged the creation of a Home Department because his overburdened agency could not cope with the volume of land business derived from transcontinental settlement following the Oregon Acquisition of 1846 and the Mexican Cession of 1848. Before Interior was established, disposition of public lands had been handled by the Treasury and the General Land Office. Thomas Ewing was the first Secretary of the Interior. John C. Calhoun opposed, but Daniel Webster supported, the establishment of a new cabinet-level agency to handle domestic concerns, including managing the vast public domain and treatment of American Indians.

Curiously, the forces unleashed by the battle of Palo Alto long bypassed the Palo Alto site itself. For much of the past century, Theresa Viele's desire to erect tablets to the fallen soldiers of that field went unfulfilled. Commemorations of the clash on the prairie were few and far between and the site of the battle slowly faded from the memory of all but the most devoted enthusiasts.

Yet in the end, the Home Department has come full circle to Palo Alto. Following decades of promotion and lobbying by citizens of south Texas, in 1992 Congress passed Public Law 102-304, which designated the field as a National Historic Site. Interestingly, much of the motivation for doing so was prompted by the popularity of the many Civil War battlefield parks and the realization that commanders on these fields—Grant, Meade, Pemberton, Longstreet, Buell, and dozens of others—faced some of their first hostile fire at Palo Alto. Similarly, efforts to preserve this salt-grass plain have been the by-products of a maturing conservation ethic that began as early as 1848 with the addition of the Mexican cession to the American West.

The end result is that a site that helped spur the creation of the Department of the Interior and shape the National Park Service has found a home in both. One hundred and fifty years after President Zachary Taylor, an alumnus of the Battle of Palo Alto, set up the Home Department and 126 years after President Ulysses S. Grant, another battle alumnus, signed Yellowstone National Park into existence, Palo Alto Battlefield is commencing operations as one of the newest units—but one of the founding influences—of the National Park Service.